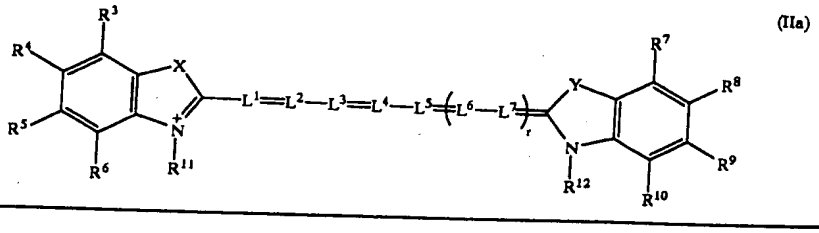
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 6, as follows:

Antibody-dye conjugates that comprise near-infrared dyes are, for example, those from the following classes:

polymethine dyes, such as dicarbocyanine, tricarbocyanine, merocyanine and oxonol dyes (WO 96/17628, which is incorporated by reference, teaches cyanine dyes of formula IIa



(IIa)

wherein

r represents the numbers 0, 1 or 2, on condition that, for r=2, the respective fragments L^6 and L^7 that occur in duplicate may be same or different,

L^1 to L^7 are same or different, each independently representing a fragment CH or CR,

where

R is a halogen atom, a hydroxy, carboxy, acetoxy, amino, nitro, cyano or sulfonic acid group or an alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfoalkyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino or halogenalkyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl, alkylaryl hydroxyaryl, carboxyaryl, sulfoaryl, arylamino, diarylamino, nitroaryl or halogenaryl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms,

or where R represents a bond that bonds to another residue R and forms a 4- to 6-member ring together with the interspersed residues L^1 to L^7,

or where R represents one bond, respectively, at two different positions that are linked via a -CO- fragment,

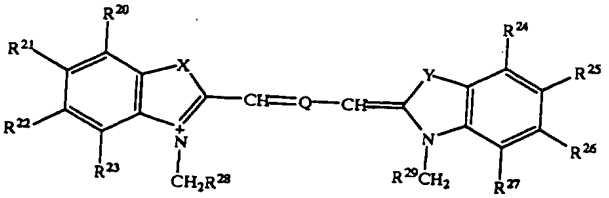
R^3 to R^{12} are same or different, each independently representing a hydrogen atom, a residue B or W (where B is a biological detecting unit having a molecular weight of up to 30,000 that bonds to specific cell populations or selectively to receptors, or accumulates in tissues or tumours, or generally stays in the blood, or is a macromolecule that bonds non-selectively, and W represents a hydrophilic group that improves water-solubility, with the n-octanol-water distribution coefficient of the compound according to formula I being less than or equal to 2.0 for l=0,) or an alkyl or alkenyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl or aralkyl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms, said alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl residue optionally carrying an additional residue W as defined above, or to each pair of adjacent residues R^3 to R^{10} are annealed 5- to 6-member rings that may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and that may optionally carry an additional residue R as defined above, with due regard for the interspersed C atoms,

X and Y are same or different, each independently representing an O, S, Se or Te or a -$C(CH_3)_2$-, -CH=CH- or -CR^{13} R^{14}- fragment,

where

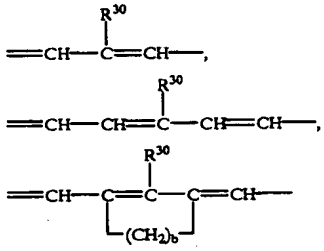
R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a residue B or W as defined above, or an alkyl or alkenyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl or aralkyl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms, the alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl residue optionally carrying an additional residue W as defined above;

and teaches cyanine dyes of formula V

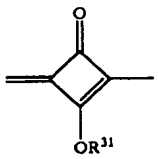


(V)

where Q represents a fragment



or



where

R^{30} represents a hydroxy group, a carboxy group, an alkoxy residue containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a chlorine atom, b is an integer (2 or 3), R^{31} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl residue containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

X and Y independently represent an -O-, -S-, -CH=CH- or $-C(CH_2R^{32})(CH_2R^{33})-$ fragment each,

R^{20} to R^{29},

R^{32} and R^{33} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxy-, a sulfonic acid residue or a carboxyalkyl-, alkoxycarbonyl or alkoxyoxoalkyl residue containing up to 10 C atoms or a sulfoalkyl residue containing up to 4

C atoms,

or a non-selectively bonding macromolecule or a residue of the general formula VI

$$-(O)_v-(CH_2)_o-CO-NR^{34}-(CH_2)_s-(NH-CO)_q-R^{35} \qquad (VI)$$

on the condition that, where X and Y are O, S, -CH=CH- or $-C(CH_3)_2-$, at least one of the residues R^{20} to R^{29} corresponds to a non-selectively bonding macromolecule or a compound of the general formula VI,

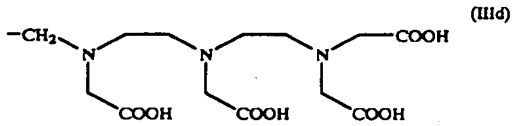
where

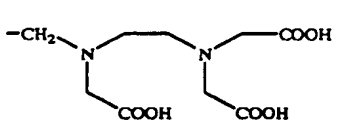
o and s equal 0 or independently represent an integer between 1 and 6,

q and v independently represent 0 or 1,

R^{34} represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl residue,

R^{35} represents an alkyl residue containing 3 to 6 C atoms and comprising 2 to n-1 hydroxy groups, with n being the number of C atoms, or an alkyl residue containing 1 to 6 C atoms that carries 1 to 3 additional carboxy groups, an aryl residue containing 6 to 9 C atoms or arylalkyl residue containing 7 to 15 C atoms, or a residue of the general formula III d or III e





on the condition that q is 1,

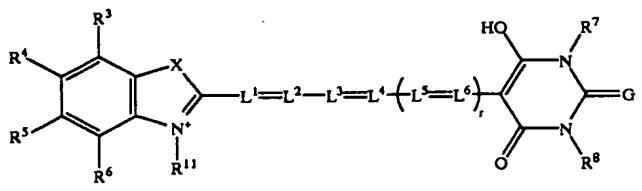
or a non-selectively bonding macromolecule,

R^{20} and R^{21}, R^{21} and R^{22}, R^{22} and R^{23}, R^{24} and R^{25}, R^{25} and R^{26}, R^{26} and R^{27}, together with the interspersed carbon atoms, form a 5- or 6-member aromatic or saturated annelled ring,

as well as their physiologically tolerable salts;

and teaches merocyanine dyes of formula IId

(IId)



wherein r, L^1 to L^6, R^3 to R^8, R^{11} and X are as defined above and

G represents an oxygen or sulfur atom.),

rhodamine dyes,

phenoxazine or phenothiazine dyes,

tetrapyrrole dyes, especially benzoporphyrins, chorines and phthalocyanines.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 7, as follows:

In particular subjects of this invention are antibody-dye conjugates of general formula I

$$A\text{-}(F)_n \quad (I), \qquad \sout{B\text{-}(F)_n \quad (I),}$$

in which

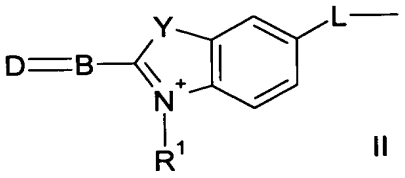
A [[B]]stands for an antibody or an antibody fragment with high binding to ED-BFN,

F stands for a dye from the class of coumarins, fluoresceins, carboxyfluoresceins, difluorofluoresceins, tetrabromofluoresceins, tetraiodofluoresceins, rhodamines, carboxyrhodamines, carboxyrhodols, 4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-indacenes, polymethine dyes or tetrapyrrole dyes, or the terbium or europium complexes with DTPA or cyclene and its derivatives, and

n stands for 1 to 5.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 3, as follows:

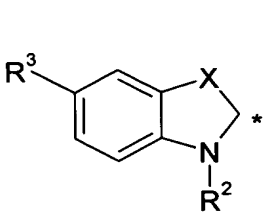
The invention thus relates in particular to those antibody-dye conjugates in which dye $-(F)_n$ of general formula I is a cyanine dye of general formula II



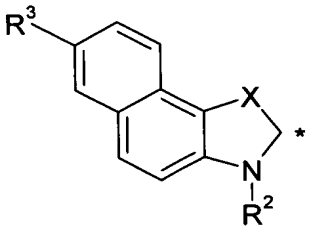
II

in which

D stands for a radical III or IV



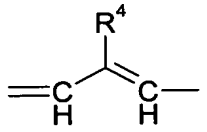
III



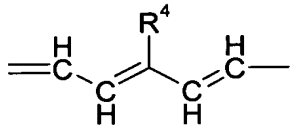
IV

whereby the position labeled with a star means the interface site with radical B, and

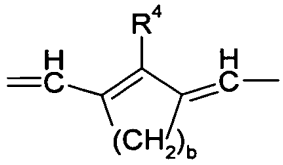
B can stand for group V, VI, VII, VIII or IX



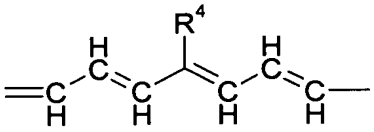
V



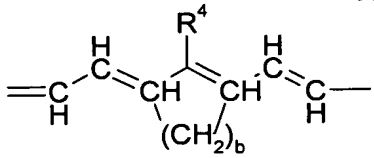
VI



VII



VIII



IX

in which

R^1 and R^2 mean C_1-C_4 sulfoalkyl, a saturated or unsaturated, branched or linear C_1-C_{50} alkyl chain, which optionally can be substituted with up to 15 oxygen atoms, and/or with up to 3 carbonyl groups, and/or with up to 5 hydroxy groups,

R^3 stands for group $-COOE^1$, $-CONE^1E^2$, $-NHCOE^1$, $-NHCONHE^1$, $-NE^1E^2$, $-OE^1$, $-OSO_3E^1$, $-SO_3E^1$, $-SO_2NHE^1$ or $-E^1$, whereby

E^1 and E^2, independently of one another, stand for a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_4 sulfoalkyl, saturated or unsaturated, branched or straight-chain C_1-C_{50} alkyl, which optionally is interrupted with up to 15 oxygen atoms, and/or up to 3 carbonyl groups, and/or can be substituted with up to 5 hydroxy groups,

R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,

b stands for 2 or 3,

X and Y, stand ~~stands~~ for oxygen, sulfur or the group $=C(CH_3)_2$ or $-(CH=CH)-$, and

L stands for a direct bond or a linker, which is a straight-chain or branched carbon chain with up to 20 carbon atoms, which can be substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH, or SO_3 groups and/or optionally can be interrupted in one or more places by an -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CS-, -CONH-, -NHCO-, -NHCSNH-, $-SO_2-$, PO_4- or an -NH group or an aryl ring.